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Book Reviews

Concise Latin Grammar. BY BENJAMIN L. D'OUGE. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1921

There was a time when the grammar book was indispensable to students from the very beginning of their study of Latin. The type of beginning book now in use has entirely driven the grammar from the first year. The inclusion of grammatical summaries in second and third year texts is fast driving the grammar out of the later years of the course as well. Many a student now goes through high school and college Latin without acquiring a Latin grammar or getting thoroughly acquainted with one. Under the circumstances a new grammar must possess many novel features to justify its appearance.

Recent Latin grammars may be divided into two classes, the longer, like Hale-Buck (399 pp.) and Allen and Greenough (500 pp.), and the shorter, like Bennett (303 pp.) and Burton (350 pp.). The grammar under review emphasizes its brevity by the word "concise" in the title, by a quotation from Horace on the title-page and by the first sentence in the Preface. Yet it has 428 pp. But it really contains much less than the Hale-Buck book because of its sparing use of small type, by the open effect of the page, and by unusual fullness of explanation on difficult points. It must then be thought of as a compromise, like Burton, between Bennett and the longer grammars. It is not exhaustive but aims to present the essentials for high-school and college students. It makes no pretense of contributing anything to the scholarly study of grammar.

Obviously such a book cannot differ from its predecessors very much except in the emphasis on various points. The emphasis in this book is on the points important to the beginner. For example, only one of the grammars mentioned above defines the word "base" and D'Ooge follows it (Allen and Greenough), even to the language and examples, in defining the word and in distinguishing it carefully from "root" and "stem." The various synopses of syntactical materials are also due to this emphasis. In general, the book reads more like a beginning book than a traditional grammar—and this statement is not meant as an unfavorable criticism.

Naturally, individuals will differ in their opinions about the matters omitted or included. When I note the omission of such important matters as the *cum*-clause of description in the present tense, I cannot help but feel that the discussion of the origin of the Roman numerical symbols, while interesting, could well be dispensed with.

The Preface states that in the matter of grammatical nomenclature a conservative attitude has been taken, but I am glad to see that the phrase is not to be taken too seriously.

The illustrative examples have been drawn chiefly from secondary Latin, but the references are not given. This strikes me as a defect. Bennett found it desirable to add a table of references in the new edition of his grammar.

Other points that may be noted are the following: the introduction on the Latin language is new in this form. There is no note calling attention to the important difference in quality between long and short vowels. The discussion of vowel quantity is awkwardly postponed, so that quantity is talked about long before it is explained. Penult and antepenult are not defined. The dative and ablative plural of *dea* and *filia* are given as *deabus* and *filiabus* and nothing is said of the occurrence of the regular forms. The table of the original endings of consonant and i-stems of the third declension is useful. There is some confusion in the treatment of the defective nouns: *epulae* is given among the nouns having a plural only, but it is listed again (rightly) among those which are of one gender in the singular and another in the plural. In section 134e "adopted father" should read "adoptive father." The subjective genitive is made to include the possessive and other genitives and the example *domus Caesaris* is cited. Like other grammars this one does not explain the origin of the *refert* construction. In the example *id eis persuasit* (section 410) *id* is explained as an accusative of kindred meaning; it is obviously the direct object. The examples under the ablative of cause are a hodge-podge, but a note relieves the situation somewhat. In the treatment of word order space is given to the results of several recent studies. There is a short section on prose rhythm. The detailed discussion of vowel and syllable quantity is given at the end preceding the section on versification, to which it is related.

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Greek Tragedy. By GILBERT NORWOOD, M.A. Boston: John W. Luce & Co., 1920. \$5. Pp. vi+394.

The scope of this volume—which by a curious coincidence has made its appearance almost simultaneously with the *Athenian Tragedy* of the late Professor T. D. Goodell—includes the entire field of Greek Tragedy as viewed from the standpoint of the archaeologist, the literary critic and historian, and the humanist generally. The work as such should constitute a convenient *vade mecum* for a wide circle of readers. The various divisions of the book treat of the literary history of Tragedy, the theatre and the play, the works of the three great masters of Athenian Tragedy,—together with a very lucid and illuminating, if elementary, exposition of Greek metric as it occurs in the Tragedy.

The outlook of the author is essentially conservative. It is perhaps hardly fair that his treatment of Sir William Ridgeway's brilliant theory of the origin of Tragedy should be confined to a footnote, and that his conclusion here should be the somewhat dogmatic,—“We cannot regard Professor Ridgeway as having succeeded in damaging the traditional view.” Mr. Norwood displays great caution when he comes to consider the problematical question whether acting was performed on stage or in orchestra during the fifth century. In separate sections he marshals the arguments for and opposing the traditional view, relying on the works of Haigh and Dörpfeld respectively, but refuses to commit himself definitely either way. It appears extraordi-